

1 HB253  
2 172713-3  
3 By Representatives Nordgren, Shedd, Butler, Williams (JW),  
4 Sessions, Wilcox, Rich, Pettus, Whorton (R), South, Hanes,  
5 Wood, Tuggle, Millican, Johnson (R), Faust, Davis, Mooney and  
6 Greer  
7 RFD: Boards, Agencies and Commissions  
8 First Read: 17-FEB-16

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ENGROSSED

A BILL  
TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

To create the Alabama Commission on Tick Borne  
Illness; to provide for the membership and duties of the  
commission; to provide that the commission would allocate  
funds appropriated to it to certain colleges and universities  
conducting research on tick borne illness; to authorize the  
commission to create criteria and an application process to  
allocate funds; and to provide that the commission would  
dissolve on September 30, 2021, unless continued by act of the  
Legislature.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. The Alabama Commission on Tick Borne  
Illness is created in order to coordinate research on the  
prevention of tick borne illness in the state.

Section 2. The commission shall be composed of the  
following members who shall serve at the pleasure of the  
appointing authority:

(1) One member with knowledge of the study and  
prevention of tick borne illness appointed by the Speaker of  
the House of Representatives.

1           (2) One member with knowledge of the study and  
2 prevention of tick borne illness appointed by the President  
3 Pro Tempore of the Senate.

4           (3) One member with knowledge of the study and  
5 prevention of tick borne illness appointed by the Governor.

6           (4) One member with knowledge of the study and  
7 prevention of tick borne illness appointed by the State Health  
8 Officer.

9           (5) One member appointed by the Chair of the House  
10 Education, Finance, and Appropriations Committee.

11           (6) One member appointed by Chair of the Finance and  
12 Taxation-Education Committee.

13           Section 3. (a) The goal of the commission is to  
14 coordinate research and distribute funding for research on the  
15 study of tick borne illness in Alabama and to make suggestions  
16 for the treatment of and reduction and eradication of tick  
17 borne illness in the state. Research may include methods of  
18 prevention, treatment, surveillance, diagnosis, risk  
19 prediction, outreach, and intervention of tick borne illness.  
20 The commission may not issue any recommendation that would  
21 create or define standards for the practice of medicine.

22           (b) Upon adjournment of the 2016 Regular Legislative  
23 Session, the commission shall schedule an initial meeting to  
24 organize and discuss a plan of action and create criteria and  
25 an application process for awarding research funds  
26 appropriated to the commission for such purposes, and the

1 commission shall meet as necessary thereafter to achieve its  
2 goals.

3 (c) The commission shall report its findings and any  
4 proposed legislation to the Speaker of the House and President  
5 Pro Tempore of the Senate annually by the third day of the  
6 regular session of the Legislature.

7 (d) Upon request of the chair of the commission, the  
8 Secretary of the Senate and Clerk of the House of  
9 Representatives shall provide necessary clerical assistance  
10 for the work of the commission.

11 (e) Each legislative member of the commission shall  
12 be entitled to his or her regular legislative compensation,  
13 per diem, and travel expenses for each day he or she attends a  
14 meeting of the commission in accordance with Amendment 871 of  
15 the Constitution of Alabama of 1901. These payments shall be  
16 paid out of any funds appropriated to the use of the  
17 Legislature.

18 Section 4. (a) The commission shall allocate funds  
19 for research on tick borne illness in the state based on  
20 appropriations received by the commission from the Education  
21 Trust Fund.

22 (b) The commission shall award appropriated funds  
23 annually through a grant application process. Only research  
24 universities and research facilities may apply for grant  
25 moneys.

26 (c) In order to receive the funds before the first  
27 day of the fiscal year, the college or university requesting

1 or receiving money shall provide information regarding the  
2 method, scope, and significance of its research as a  
3 prerequisite to receiving the funds. The commission may  
4 withdraw future funding from any university not performing  
5 adequate research in the opinion of the commission.

6 Section 5. The commission shall dissolve on  
7 September 30, 2021, unless continued by act of the  
8 Legislature.

9 Section 6. This act shall become effective on the  
10 first day of the third month following its passage and  
11 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.

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House of Representatives

Read for the first time and re-  
ferred to the House of Representa-  
tives committee on Boards, Agencies  
and Commissions..... . . . . 17-FEB-16

Read for the second time and placed  
on the calendar 1 amendment ..... . . . . 03-MAR-16

Read for the third time and passed  
as amended..... . . . . 27-APR-16

Yeas 99, Nays 0, Abstains 0

Jeff Woodard  
Clerk